

## Things to Know about Washington County's Outdoor Warning Sirens



### How many outdoor warning sirens are in Washington County?

- There are currently 93 sirens in Washington County.

### How are these sirens tested?

- Washington County Sheriff's Office 911 Communication Center tests/activates all sirens in the Washington County at 1:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, from March through October.

### Whose responsibility is it to maintain these sirens?

- Cities/Township's that have sirens in Washington County purchases and maintains their own sirens. (Please note that not all cities/township have sirens.)

### What are Washington County's policies detailing the circumstances under which the sirens would be sounded?

- The National Weather Service contacts the State Warning Point (Minnesota State Patrol), who is then responsible for disseminating all watches and warnings to Washington County, except warnings for conditions generated within the county itself.

### For severe weather warnings, outdoor warning siren activation in Washington County is based on the following criteria:

- When a Tornado Warning is issued for Washington County by the National Weather Service.  
*Sirens are activated for each Tornado Warning issued by the National Weather Service. It is possible for a new Warning to be issued before a previous Warning expires.*
- When the National Weather Service indicates sustained wind speeds of 70 miles per hour or more.
- When a City or County Public Safety Official (Police, Fire) requests activation due to imminent danger to life and/or property. In this situation, Washington County also notifies the National Weather Service Office in Chanhasen.

### After a warning or siren activation request is received, Washington County Sheriff's Office 911 Communications Center determines which areas of the county are affected by warning: (Please note that some cities chose to have sirens activated in north and south zones).

- NORTH** - All outdoor warning sirens located North of I94:  
Bayport                      Forest Lake                      Grant                      Hugo  
Lake Elmo Park Reserve      Lake Elmo                      Mahtomedi                      Marine on St. Croix  
Oak Park Heights              Oakdale                      Scandia                      Stillwater

- SOUTH** - All outdoor warning sirens located South of Highway 96 :  
Bayport                      Cottage Grove                      Grant                      Lake Elmo Park Reserve  
Lake Elmo                      Lakeland                      Lake St. Croix Beach                      Mahtomedi  
Newport                      Oak Park Heights                      Oakdale                      St. Paul Park  
St. Croix Bluff Reg. Park      Stillwater                      Woodbury

- COUNTY WIDE:**  
All outdoor warning sirens within Washington County

### For Your Safety

- Washington County does not issue an "all-clear" tone from the outdoor sirens. Such a signal may be confusing to residents in the event of additional warnings.
- Outdoor warning sirens are meant to be heard outside. When sirens sound, residents should always seek shelter and tune to local weather information on radio, television, or NOAA weather radio for more information.
- When the sirens are sounded, they will run for three minutes and then stop. The threat of severe weather does not stop when the sirens stop! Residents should continue to shelter and stay tuned to local weather information on radio, television or NOAA Weather Radios for the duration of the warning period.
- Many TV stations and internet sites also have tools that can send warnings to your computer and cellular phone. NOAA weather radios are also a good tool to warn residents of severe weather, whether indoors or outside.